

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 EB-07 EUR-12 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 XMB-02 L-02 /076 W

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P 260700Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1460

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG

SUBJECT: COPPER/COBALT EXPLOITATION: SMTF AND KENNECOTT

1. ACCORDING TO SALONGO, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECIDED FEB 21 THAT COPPER/COBALT EXPLOITATION WOULD HENCEFORTH BE RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR GECAMINES, SMTF AND SODIMIZA. EXPLOITATION PERMITS FOR RARE METALS LIKE GOLD, NICKEL, CHROME AND LITHIUM WILL CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED AS IN PAST. THESE DECISIONS REPORTEDLY TAKEN IN FRAMEWORK OF 30 DEC MEASURES. SALONGO GOES ON TO EXPLAIN THAT RESTRICTION OF COPPER/COBALT EXPLOITATION RESULTS FROM BASIC DECISION TO CHANNEL NEW INVESTMENTS INTO AGRICULTURE, WITH ULTIMATE AIM OF ASSURING AT LEAST 50 PERCENT GOZ REVENUES FROM THAT SOURCE.

2. IMPLICATIONS FOR KENNECOTT ARE OBVIOUS, BUT WE THINK DIRECT CONFIRMATION NECESSARY. SUGGEST DEPT PASS ABOVE INFO TO KENNECOTT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS THAT KENNECOTT TELEX BISENGIMANA, WITH COPY FOR EMBASSY, FOR OFFICIAL ELUCIDATION. WILL ALSO EXPLORE FURTHER, BUT WORD OF KENNECOTT REACTION AND CONTINUED INTEREST WOULD FACILITATE EMBASSY APPROACH.

3. DECISION AUGURS WELL FOR SMTF AND FITS WITH
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INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED THAT MOBUTU SIGNED

INVESTMENT GUARANTEE CONVENTION WITH FRANCE ON
FEBRUARY 21. AS DEPT AWARE, LACK OF GOZ SIGNATURE
ON CONVENTION WAS HOLDING UP FRENCH PARTICIPATION
IN SMTF.

4. DECISION IS BAD NEWS FOR FRENCH (BRGM-22PERCENT;
PECHINEY-16PERCENT; AQUITAINE-16PERCENT) JAPANESE (MORUBENI-16PERCENT
CONSORTIUM WITH 20 PERCENT GOZ PARTICIPATION WHO HAVE BEEN
DOING EXPLORATION WORK IN NORTHERN SHABA, NEAR MOBA.
WE ARE TOLD BY INDUSTRY SOURCES THAT BRGM-LED
CONSORTIUM HAD DEFINED QUITE PROMISING RESERVES
AND THOUGHT ALL SYSTEMS WERE GO FROM GOZ. THEY
ARE TRYING TO TURN GOZ DECISIONS AROUND, SAME
SOURCES SAY, BUT CHANCES ARE SLIM.
HINTON

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: COPPER, COBALT, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES)
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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